

PSIC Update

The Commonwealth's Application for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant has been submitted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The award announcement is expected in April, 2008 from the Department of Homeland Security; subsequently official funding announcements can not be made until the announcement.

Prior to submission, Virginia conducted a series of regional stakeholder meetings to call for and review grant applications from localities. These seven regional meetings and one state agency meeting guided the ranking of projects on a regional basis. Upon receipt of the applications and regional rankings, the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office (CICO) and State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) reviewed the applications and their rankings and provided recommendations to the Governor's Office on which projects would best benefit the regions and the Commonwealth as a whole. There were over \$80 million in PSIC grant applications received across the Commonwealth, and we anticipate that around \$25 million of the \$1 billion grant will be allocated to Virginia. Please note that we will have plans to accommodate reductions, should the final award from DHS be reduced.

To meet the challenge of prioritization, projects were divided into two tiers – one for projects that may receive funding (partial or whole) through PSIC, and one for projects that may be eligible to receive funding through other grant sources.

Localities whose projects were put forward for PSIC funding will be notified by the CICO and may be asked to supply additional information to help prepare for project implementation once an award is made. The CICO is looking forward to DHS's award announcement, and would like to thank all localities that applied for the PSIC grant, and also encourage localities that are eligible for funding under other grants opportunities to continue to apply for operable and interoperable communications grants in the future. Together, we will continue to move the Commonwealth forward, and maintain its' status as a National Best Practices Model for Interoperable Communications.